

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling a process for perforating a flexible web of cigarette tipping paper, comprising:

a supply spindle of the flexible web, said supply spindle being mounted for powered angular rotation at variable speed;

a take-up spindle for receiving a portion of the flexible web from the supply spindle, said take-up spindle being mounted for powered angular rotation at variable speed;

a variable-power laser beam generator;

at least one multi-faceted mirror positioned in the path of a laser beam emitted from said laser beam generator, said at least one multi-faceted mirror being driven by a drive unit to rotate, and said at least one rotating multi-faceted mirror dividing said laser beam into a plurality of output beams that are scanned across additional downstream optics and focused to burn a plurality of holes in said flexible web; and

a control device that controls the angular ~~rotations~~ rotation speed of said supply spindle and said take-up spindle, controls said drive unit to rotate said multi-faceted mirror, and ~~controls~~ varies the level of power supplied to said laser beam generator between multiple levels greater than zero, as a function of at least the paper speed in response to sensor inputs and control output.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said control device comprises:

a digital motion controller, said digital motion controller providing drive signals to and receiving feedback signals from an unwind motor and a rewind motor, said unwind motor driving said supply spindle and said rewind motor driving said take-up spindle, and

a programmable logic controller, said programmable logic controller providing an interface for receiving signals from an operator and from other machine controls.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein said control device further includes an analog control, said analog control providing command signals to and receiving feedback signals from said drive unit to rotate said at least one multi-faceted mirror and laser controls for said laser beam generator.

Claims 4-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for perforating a flexible web of paper, comprising:

feeding said flexible web of paper from a supply spindle of said paper, across a burn table region having a plurality of laser beam focusing lenses, and onto a take-up spindle; and

directing a laser beam onto a rotating, multi-faceted mirror such that said laser beam is divided into a plurality of laser output beams that are scanned across downstream optics that control and direct said laser output beams before said laser

output beams are focused by said focusing lenses to burn holes in said flexible web of paper;

varying the speed of paper web feed; and

varying the level of power of the laser beam between multiple levels greater than zero as a function of at least variances in the paper web speed.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said holes are burned in cigarette tipping paper.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein said holes are burned in said flexible web of paper at a variable rate within the range from 10 holes per inch of said flexible web to 115 holes per inch of said flexible web.

25. (New) The system according to claim 1 further including a plurality of collimating lenses through which the respective output beams pass; and a plurality of shutter assemblies positioned in the paths of said output beams received from said collimating lenses; said shutter assemblies including shutter portions selectively adjustable between: a fully open position allowing all of the respective output beam to pass therethrough, a fully closed position allowing none of the respective output beam to pass therethrough, and a partially open position allowing only a portion of the respective output beam to pass therethrough.

26. (New) The laser beam control system according to claim 25 wherein said shutter portions comprises carbon tabs.

27. (New) The laser beam control system according to claim 25 wherein said shutter assemblies further include metal portions in contact with said carbon portions that are adapted to receive heat from said carbon portions and dissipate said heat through a cooling medium circulated through said metal portions.

28. (New) The laser beam control system according to claim 27, wherein said metal portions comprises aluminum.

29. (New) The method according to claim 22 further including passing the output beams through respective collimating lenses and thereafter through respective shutter assemblies, and selectively adjusting each of the shutter assemblies to different positions as a function of the number of output beams.